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AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 USNATO 2321

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC

SUBJ: DPC MEETING APRIL 25, 1975, STATEMENT BY TURKISH PERMREP

SUMMARY: TURKEY DELIVERED TODAY IN THE DPC A FORCEFUL STATEMENT ADDRESSING IMMEDIATE AND LONGER RANGE MILITARY PROBLEMS IT FACES AS A RESULT OF GREECE'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE INTEGRATED NATO MILITARY STRUCTURE. TURKEY TOOK AS MODERATE A STANCE AS COULD BE EXPECTED WE BELIEVE, AND OFFERED SOME PRACTICAL STEPS FOR SOLUTION OF PARTICULAR PROBLEMS. FOLLOWING THE TURKISH STATEMENT, DPC DISCUSSION CENTERED ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE TURKEY'S REQUESTS AND SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO: NATO COMMUNICATIONS TO TURKEY; AIR DEFENSE OF THE REGION; THE AIR LINK BETWEEN EUROPE AND TURKEY; NATO EXERCISES; AND DEFENSE PLANS. ALTHOUGH RECOGNIZING THE URGENCY OF THE MATTER, THE DPC AGREED TO REFER ERALP'S STATEMENT TO CAPITALS AND HOLD A SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION HOPEFULLY BEFORE THE DPC
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MINISTERIAL MEETING MAY 22 AND 23. THE DPC ALSO AGREED TO ASK FOR A PRELIMINARY INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STAFF (IM) STUDY ON THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS AND FOR THEM TO CONSIDER HOW THE MILITARY COMMITTEE WOULD ACTUALLY HANDLE THE QUESTION, KEEPING IN MIND

GREECE'S CONTINUED REPRESENTATION ON THE MILITARY COMMITTEE. AMB DRAPF (FRG) POINTED OUT THE NEED TO WEIGH THE TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS WITH RESPECT TO GREECE'S UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH NATO ON ITS FUTURE ROLE VIS-VIS THE ALLIANCE. SEVERAL PERMREPS BELIEVED THESE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BEGIN SOON, PERHAPS WITHIN WEEKS. END SUMMARY.

1. ERALP'S STATEMENT FOLLOWS. BEGIN QUOTE:

ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS I HAVE STATED IN THIS COMMITTEE THAT MY GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION IS NOT TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO REVERSE ITS DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE INTEGRATED MILITARY ORGANIZATION. NOR HAS MY GOVERNMENT FAILED TO ADOPT AN ATTITUDE OF RESTRAINT AND MODERATION TO ACHIEVE THIS RESULT DESPITE NUMEROUS DIFFICULTIES AND RATHER HOSTILE ATTITUDES IT HAS ENCOUNTERED SINCE THE GREEK NOTIFICATION OF WITHDRAWAL ON AUGUST 28, 1974.

THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S MAIN GOAL HAS BEEN TO UPHOLD THE BETTER INTERESTS OF THE ALLIANCE AND THAT OF TURKEY IN AN ERA WHERE THE VITAL INTERESTS OF THE ENTIRE ALLIANCE IS AT STAKE. THEREFORE, MY GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE ANY OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO THE POLICY OF TOLERANCE AND PATIENCE PURSUED BY THE ALLIANCE WITHIN REASONABLE LIMITS DESIGNED TO HELP THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO RETURN INTO THE INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT TURKEY WOULD WAIT INDEFINITELY FOR THE REMEDY OF DEFICIENCIES WHICH JEOPARDIZE OUR MATERIAL LINKS WITH THE REST OF THE ALLIANCE.

WE CANNOT FOREGO THE FACT THAT THE ALLIANCE OPERATES WITHIN THE WELL-ESTABLISHED RULES WHICH HAVE TO BE RESPECTED BY ALL AND A REASONABLE BALANCE SHOULD BE KEPT BETWEEN RESPONSIBILITIES AND BENEFITS VIS-A-VIS THE MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THE ALLIANCE. IN OUR VIEW, A POLICY OF APPEASEMENT TOWARDS GREECE, IF IT IS PUSHED TOO FAR, WOULD NOT ONLY BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE BUT WOULD ALSO BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE ESTABLISHED SYSTEM AS A WHOLE. IT IS A FACT THAT GREECE, WHO DECLARED THE WITHDRAWAL OF HER FORCES, CONTINUES TO BE REPRESENTED IN MOST OF

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THE NATO ORGANS RELATED TO THE INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE AND ALL NATO MILITARY COMMAND ORGANIZATION IN EUROPE EXCEPT THOSE LOCATED IN TURKEY WITHOUT FULFILLING THE BASIC OBLIGATIONS, I.E. THE EFFECTIVE ASSIGNMENT OF HER FORCES TO NATO, CONTINUITY OF NATO COMMUNICATIONS, EFFECTIVENESS OF NATO EARLY WARNING AND AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM. WE HAVE REASONS TO BELIEVE THAT, WELL AWARE OF THE CAUTIOUS APPROACH OF THE ALLIANCE, SHE ENJOYS THIS PRIVILEGE WITHOUT A CORRESPONDING RESPONSIBILITY AND IN A COMPLACENT POSITION DOES NOT HESITATE, AS THE CASES HAVE SHOWN, TO EXPLOIT IT FOR HER MOVES AGAINST TURKEY'S DEFENCE INTERESTS.

AS A COUNTRY WHICH IS DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THIS

CALCULATED ATTITUDE AND THE AMBIGUOUS STATUS OF GREECE, WHATEVER HER POLITICAL MOTIVATIONS MAY BE, WE CANNOT ACCEPT A CONTINUING CURTAILMENT OF THE DEFENCE CAPABILITIES OF THE ALLIANCE IN THIS REGION; NOR THE ABUSE OF THE NATO MEANS AND PROCEDURES BY THE GREEK AUTHORITIES AS A POLITICAL WEAPON AGAINST US. NOR CAN WE LET THIS EQUIVOCAL STATUS OF GREECE TO LAST INDEFINITELY.

MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE ALLIANCE CAN BOTH PURSUE THE AIM OF LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN FOR GREECE TO RETURN INTO THE FOLD, AND AT THE SAME TIME TAKE PRACTICAL MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE THE DAILY DIFFICULTIES TURKEY ENCOUNTERS. THE ALLEVIATION OF THESE DIFFICULTIES DOES NOT HAVE ANY BEARING ON THE WELL UNDERSTOOD POLITICAL AIM OF THE ALLIANCE AND THAT OF TURKEY BUT RATHER AIMS AT KEEPING UP TURKEY'S UNHINDERED PHYSICAL TIES WITH THE REST OF THE INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE. MY GOVERNMENT SEES NO POLITICAL NOR ANY OTHER DIFFICULTY ON THE PART OF OUR ALLIES TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS AND NO GROUNDS FOR AWAITING THE CONCLUSION OF OBVIOUSLY TIME-CONSUMING PROCEDURES REGARDING THE SETTLEMENT OF PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THEIR WITHDRAWAL.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 4 USNATO 2321

IN MY GOVERNMENT'S OPINION FOLLOWING ARE THE PRACTICAL AND ALMOST DAILY MATTERS SERIOUSLY AFFECTING THE

ROLE OF MY COUNTRY IN COMMON DEFENCE AND WHICH HAVE TO BE
ATTENDED TO PRIOR TO THE SETTLEMENT OF OTHER QUESTIONS
ARISING FROM THE GREEK WITHDRAWAL.

I. COMMUNICATIONS

IT IS A FACT THAT THE BULK OF TURKEY'S COMMUNICATIONS
LINKS WITH NATO, THE MNC'S AND PSC'S PASS THROUGH GREECE. IN
THE COURSE OF THE LATTER HALF OF 1974 THERE HAVE BEEN INSTANCES
WHEN THESE LINKS WERE CUT OFF FOR MONTHS BY GREECE, DESPITE
THE FACT THAT THESE ARE NATO FUNDED COMMON-USE INSTALLATIONS.
THERE CAN BE NO GUARANTEE IN A TIME OF CRISIS AGAINST THE
COMPLETE OR INTERMITTENT CUT OFF IN THE EVENT OF GREECE'S
ACTUAL AND TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM THE INTEGRATED MILITARY
STRUCTURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, EVEN IF A GUARANTEE COULD
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BE OBTAINED TO MAINTAIN THESE LINKS AFTER HER WITHDRAWAL,
IT WOULD NOT BE MILITARILY CONVINCING TO ASSUME THE UNINTER-
RUPTED AVAILABILITY OF THE LINKS TO TURKEY AT ALL TIMES.

THEREFORE, IT IS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL TO COMPLY
WITH THE FIRST PRINCIPLE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THUS TO HAVE
A SURVIVABLE AND FLEXIBLE COMMUNICATIONS LINK TO TURKEY.
IN THIS RESPECT, BESIDES A PROJECT WHICH IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION,
REROUTING SOME TRAFFIC TO SATCOM COMMUNICATIONS GAINS IMPOR-
TANCE. ACCORDINGLY THE CAPACITY OF THE SATCOM STATION IN
TURKEY HAS BEEN INCREASED IN JAN 75. ALTHOUGH WE
APPRECIATE THIS MEASURE TAKEN BY SHAPE AS PART OF THE SHORT-
TERM IMPROVEMENTS, THERE STILL REMAINS WORK TO BE COMPLETED
TO INCREASE CIRCUIT CAPABILITY AND TO REALIZE THE CONNECTION
BOTH IN THE SATELLITE AND IN THE TERRESTRIAL LINKS. CONSE-
QUENTLY, THE TRANSFER OF THE FOLLOWING CIRCUITS TO SATCOM AS
ALTERNATE ROUTES SHOULD BE ACTIVATED:

1. VOICE CIRCUITS:

- A) SHAPE TO TGS
- B) AFSOUTH TO TGS
- C) COMNAVSOUTH TO TURKISH NAVY COMMAND
- D) CAMAIRSOUTH TO TURKISH AIR FORCE COMMAND

2. TELEGRAPH CIRCUITS:

- A) COMAIRSOUTH TO TURKISH AIR FORCE COMMAND,
INCLUDING 2 CIRCUITS FOR EXCHANGE OF METEOROLOGICAL
INFORMATIONS
- B) SHOC - 1ST SOC IN ESKISEHIR, 2 CIRCUITS
- C) SHOC - 2ND SOC IN DIYARBAKIR, 2 CIRCUITS.

MY GOVERNMENT REQUESTS THE DPC TO AUTHORIZE THE
MC TO INITIATE THE NECESSARY ACTION FOR PROVISION OF THE
ABOVE CIRCUITS OVER SATCOM COMMUNICATIONS.

II. AIR DEFENCE OF THE REGION

AIR DEFENCE RESPONSIBILITY OF SOUTHEASTERN FLANK
OF NATO RESTS WITH SIXATF WHICH IS THE NATO HEADQUARTERS IN
IZMIR, TURKEY AND TO WHICH TURKISH AND GREEK AIR FORCES ARE
TO BE ASSIGNED IN PEACE AND IN TIME OF WAR.
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SIXATAFF AIR DEFENCE AREA IS DIVIDED INTO THREE
GEOGRAPHICAL SECTORS COMPRISING ONE GREEK AEGEAN SECTOR AND
TWO TURKISH SECTORS.

EFFECTIVENESS OF AIR DEFENCE IS ENTIRELY DEPENDENT
ON TIMELY EXCHNGE OF DATA AND INFORMATION BETWEEN SECTORS
AND COORDINATION OF SUCH INFORMATION.
ANY HINDERANCE IN THE FLOW OF SUCH INFORMATION
WILL SERIOUSLY HAMPER EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM
OF NATO.

AFTER HER NOTIFICATION OF WITHDRAWAL, GREECE HAS
STOPPED THE SUPPLY OF EARLY WARNING INFORMATION TO NATO.
THIS HAS DEVELOPED ALARGE GAP AND HAS BROKEN THE CONTINUITY
OF THE NATO AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM DAMAGING ITS RELIABILITY
AND EFFECTIVENESS. FURTHER MORE, IF GREECE DENIES THE USE
OF THE NATO COMMUNICATIONS INTALLATIONS, ESPECIALLY THE
ACE - HIGH SYSTEM, ALL LINKS BETWEEN TURKEY AND ITALY WILL
BE SEVERED. THEREFORE, IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO REMEDY THIS
SITUATION:

1. SIXATF AND FIVEATF AIR DEFENCE AREAS SHOULD BE
REORGANIZED TO CLOSE THE GAP OF THIS GREEK AND AEGEAN SECTOR,
2. TURKISH AIR DEFENCE INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT
SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED IN STEP WITH THIS NEW REORGANIZATION
AND INCREASED RESPONSIBILITY.
3. CONNECTION MUST BE ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED BETWEEN
THE TURKISH AND NATO AIR DEFENCE SYSTEMS.

FOR THIS PURPOSE DATA LINK AND VOICE COMMUNICATION
BETWEEN TURKISH AND ITALIAN NADGE OR RADAR SITES MUST BE
ESTABLISHED.

AS STATED ABOVE, COMMUNICATION LINKS MUST NECESSA-
RILY BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN TURKISH ESKISEHIR SECTOR OPERATIONS
CENTER AND ITALIAN SECTOR OPERATIONS CENTER.

THEREFORE, MY GOVERNMENT REQUESTS THE DPC TO
INVITE THE MILITARY COMMITTEE TO INITIATE THE NECESSARY ACTIONS
IN THIS RESPECT.
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III. AIR LINK BETWEEN EUROPE AND TURKEY

SINCE AUGUST 1974, THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS
ARBITRARILY DECLARED THE AIRSPACE OVER GREECE AS WELL AS OVER

THE AEGEAN SEA AS DANGEROUS TO INT'L AIR NAVIGATION
AND THUS VIRTUALLY BLOCKED ALL AIR TRAFFIC TO AND FROM
TURKEY VIA THE ATHENS FIR (FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION). IN
LINE WITH THIS PRACTICE, THEY HAVE EVEN REFUSED OVERLIGHT

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PERMISSION FOR THE AIRCRAFT OF SACEUR ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS.
CONSEQUENTLY, THE ALTERNATIVE AVAILABLE ROUTES WHICH TURKISH
AIRCRAFT HAVE, IN ORDER TO FLY TO AND FROM DESTINATIONS IN
THE WEST ARE :

A) TURKEY - EGYPT - LIBYA - ITALY - ONWARDS

THIS ROUTE IS TOO LONG, UNECONOMICAL AND UNSAFE.

B) TURKEY- BULGARIA - ONWARDS

THIS ROUTE CARRIES WITH IT THE OBVIOUS POLITICAL, MILITARY
AND SECURITY DISADVANTAGES FOR TURKEY AND FOR THE ALLIANCE.
LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THIS ROUTE ALSO GIVES GROUNDS TO THE
WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES TO MAKE REQUESTS FOR THEIR MILITARY
PLANES TO FLY OVER TURKEY, THE SERIOUS RESULTS OF WHICH I
AM SURE WILL BE APPRECIATED BY OUR ALLIES.

THEREFORE, IT IS NOT ONLY IN THE INTERESTS OF TURKEY

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BUT ALSO THOSE OF THE ALLIANCE TO ASSIST TURKEY IN HER DEMANDS THAT THE ATHENS FIR SHOULD BE REOPENED TO AIR TRAFFIC.

IV. NATO EXERCISES

I HAVE EXPLAINED VERY RECENTLY TO THIS COMMITTEE WHY WE WERE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WINTEX 75. THEREFORE I SHALL NOT REPEAT THEM HERE. HOWEVER, IN THE REPORT THAT IS GOING TO BE FORWARDED TO THE DPC BY THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES DUE COVERAGE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO REASONS WHY TURKEY DID NOT TAKE PART IN WINTEX-75 IN ORDER TO AVOID A SIMILAR OCCURRENCE IN FUTURE EXERCISES.

FURTHER TO THIS SPECIFIC CASE, I CAN ADD THAT THE GREEK AUTHORITIES, BY CONTINUOUSLY REFUSING TO PARTICIPATE IN OR DIVERTING TO UNAPPROPRIATE REGIONS TURKISH AND NATO MILITARY EXERCISES ON, OVER AND AROUND THE AEGEAN SEA, CAUSE THE CANCELLATION OF EXERCISES.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING IT WILL NO DOUBT BE CONCEDED THAT AS THINGS STAND NOW, TURKEY AS WELL AS NATO ARE BEING DENIED THE BENEFITS OF THE EXPECTED POLITICAL AND MILITARY RESULTS OF NATO EXERCISES. CONSEQUENTLY THE OPERATIONAL READINESS OF RELATED FORCES WILL SUFFER. THEREFORE MY GOVERNMENT URGES OUR ALLIES AS WELL AS THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO REFRAIN FROM ANY ATTITUDE WHICH WILL ENCOURAGE THE DENIAL OF A MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF TURKEY IN NATO EXERCISES.

V. DEFENCE PLANS

IN THE EVENT OF THE ACTUAL AND TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF GREECE FROM THE INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE, THE DEFENCE PLANS FOR THE SOUTHERN REGION WILL REQUIRE A SUBSTANTIAL REVIEW. THEREFORE, RATHER THAN WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT, MY GOVERNMENT REQUESTS THE DPC TO ASK THE MILITARY COMMITTEE START WORKING ON CONTINGENCY AND SUPPLEMENTARY PLANS AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE ON THE BASIS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION SO THAT SHOULD THE NEED ARISE WE MAY NOT BE CAUGHT UNPREPARED.

END QUOTE.
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2. FOLLOWING THIS STATEMENT, AMB MENZIES (CANADA) REFERRED TO A MORE INFORMAL MEETING OF ABOUT 10 DAYS AGO IN WHICH THE GREEK PERMREP PROVIDED INFORMATION ABOUT POSITIVE STEPS TAKEN CONCERNING AIR TRAFFIC OVER THE AEGEAN AND ASSOCIATED COMMUNICATION LINKS. MENZIES ASKED IF TURKEY TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THIS INFORMATION IN PREPARING THE STATEMENT JUST DELIVERED TO THE DPC. ERALP WAS PREPARED FOR THIS QUESTION; HE ANSWERED THAT THIS GREEK ACTION DOES NOT FIT NATO PURPOSES, AND READ A

SECOND STATEMENT WHICH FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE:

THE AFTN (AERONAUTICAL FIXED TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK) LINE IN NO WAY SERVES NATO PURPOSES NOR DOES IT FALL INTO THE NATO COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

THIS LINE WHICH SERVES THE FLIGHT INFORMATION EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS OF CIVIL AVIATION AND WHICH WAS UNILATERALLY CUT OFF BY GREECE 8 MONTHS AGO LINKS ISTANBUL AND ATHENS AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES UNITS.

THE ISTANBUL END OF THE LINE WAS KEPT OPEN THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD.

TWO WEEKS AGO GREECE DECIDED TO REOPEN HER END OF THE SAID LINE.

THIS OF COURSE IN NO WAY MEANS THAT THE ATHENS FIR IS OPENED TO AIR TRAFFIC AGAIN. FAR FROM IT, EVEN THE TELEPHONE LINKS BETWEEN ISTANBUL-IZMIR AND ATHENS AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES REMAIN CLOSED IN THE ATHENS END, AS THEY HAVE BEEN DURING THE PAST 8 MONTHS, WHEN THEY TOO WERE CUT OFF SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE AFIN LINE WHICH I JUST MENTIONED.

THERE ARE GREEK CLAIMS THAT THE ONLY REASON FOR THE DECISION OF GREECE TO DECLARE AND TO MAINTAIN THE ATHENS FIR AS DANGEROUS TO INTERNATIONAL AIR NAVIGATION IS THE TURKISH NOTAM 714 ISSUED IN AUGUST 1974.

THIS NOTAM MERELY SETS NEW "POSITION REPORTING POINTS" FOR AIRCRAFT APPROACHING ISTANBUL FIR FROM THE AEGEAN SEA AND IN NO WAY IMPINGES ON THE SAFETY OF REGULARITY OF AIR TRAFFIC.

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FURTHERMORE, AS IT IS KNOWN TO BE EQUALLY STIPULATED IN RELEVANT GREEK CIVIL AVIATION REGULATIONS, THIS NOTAM WAS ISSUED IN VIEW OF THE IMPERATIVE REQUIREMENTS OF TURKEY'S ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CONTINUED REFUSAL OF THE ATHENS FIR AUTHORITIES TO PROVIDE TO TURKEY APPROPRIATE INFORMATION WHICH TURKEY AIMED TO OBTAIN THROUGH NOTAM 714, IN A WAY IMPOSED ON TURKEY THE UNAVOIDABILITY OF ISSUING THE SAID NOTAM.

IF THE GREEK AUTHORITIES ARE SINCERE IN THEIR CONTENTION THAT THIS NOTAM IS THE ROOT OF ALL CONFUSION IN THE ATHENS FIR, AND IF IT IS NOT THEIR AIM TO DISRUPT AIR TRAFFIC REACHING TURKEY, THEY CAN PROVE THEIR GOOD WILL RIGHT AWAY BY REOPENING TO AIR TRAFFIC THEIR PORTION OF AIRWAY G-12, WHICH CROSSES OVER THE LAND FRONTIER BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE AND WHICH FALLS COMPLETELY BEYOND THE SCOPE OF NOTAM 714. END QUOTE.

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3. AMB DE STAERCCKE (BELGIUM) OBSERVED THAT TURKEY HAD EVERY RIGHT TO DESCRIBE ITS SITUATION AND TO SUGGEST CORRECTIVE ACTIONS HE TIED ERALP'S STATEMENT TO THE FORTHCOMING GREEK/NATO NEGOTIATIONS AND SAW NO REASON WHY THEY COULD NOT BEGIN IN A FEW WEEKS ALTHOUGH THEY CERTAINLY WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO CONCLUDE. IN THE MEANTIME, DE STAERCCKE PROPOSED THAT THE DPC INVITE THE MILITARY COMMITTEE TO PREPARE A REPORT ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE MEASURES REQUESTED BY TURKEY. THESE FALL IN THE CATEGORIES OF SHORT TERM REMEDIAL MEASURES AND LONGER TERM DEFENSE PLANS. REGARDING THE LATTER, THE DPC SHOULD ALSO HAVE MILITARY COMMITTEE ADVICE ON THE IMPACT OF THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GREECE AND NATO. PROBLEMS OF THE MIDDLE TERM ARE POLITICAL. AS THEY INVOLVE THE NATURE OF THOSE RELATIONSHIPS THEMSELVES. AS A FIRST STEP, DE STAERCCKE CONCLUDED, PERMREPS SHOULD SEND ERALP'S STATEMENT TO THEIR AUTHORITIES FOR ANALYSIS. CONFIDENTIAL

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4. ACTING SYG PANSA GENERALLY AGREED WITH DE STAERCCKE'S VIEWS BUT ASKED IF THE DPC SHOULD INVITE THE MILITARY COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS, BEARING IN MIND THAT GREECE IS REPRESENTED IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE. ERALP REPLIED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES RECOGNIZE THE DELICATE NATURE

OF THE UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE ALLIANCE AND GREECE. HOWEVER, TURKEY HAS IMMEDIATE DEFENSE NEEDS AS A RESULT OF THE GREEK POSITION AND THESE NEEDS DEMAND IMMEDIATE ATTENTION BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE. ERALP SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS THE MILITARY COMMITTEE COULD ASSIGN THE TASK TO A SUB-GROUP TO GET AROUND THE GREEK PRESENCE.

5. MENZIES SUPPORTED THE NEED TO SEND THE TURKISH STATEMENT TO GOVERNMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION BEFORE GOING TO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE. HE SUGGESTED THE IMS MIGHT DO SOME PRELIMINARY WORK IN THE MEANTIME. ERALP AGAIN URGED SPEED, STATING HIS AUTHORITIES CANNOT ALLOW THE PRESENT SITUATION TO CONTINUE INDEFINITELY. HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO PRELIMINARY IMS WORK, BUT THE DPS SHOULD GIVE THE MILITARY COMMITTEE A MANDATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. AMB CATALANO (ITALY) AGREED WITH DE STAERCKE'S SUGGESTIONS AND THAT THE STUDY SHOULD GET UNDERWAY SOON BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, NATO SHOULD TRY TO AVOID CREATING ADDITIONAL POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES.

7. KRAPF WELCOMED ERALP'S STATEMENT AND EMPHASIZED THAT IT WILL BE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN NATO'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREECE WHICH SHOULD COME SOON. NEVERTHELESS, HE AGREED THAT THE DPC SHOULD HAVE TIME TO STUDY THE STATEMENT AND SEND IT TO CAPITALS. IT IS IMPORTANT, KRAPF CONTINUED, TO CONSIDER TURKEY'S PROPOSALS IN LIGHT OF TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO BE DEVELOPED FOR THE GREEK NEGOTIATIONS. KRAPF ADDED THAT THIS CONSIDERATION IS NOT MEANT TO DILUTE THE URGENCY WHICH TURKEY ATTACHES TO ITS PROPOSALS HEARD TODAY.

8. IN SUMMING UP, PANSA INDICATED CONSENSUS THAT THE DPC WILL TAKE NOTE OF ERALP'S STATEMENT; ASK THAT THE IMS UNDERTAKE A PRELIMINARY STUDY OF THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS; AND EXAMINE HOW TO UNDERTAKE A MORE COMPLETE STUDY OF THE ISSUES, CONFIDENTIAL

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PERHAPS IN THE CONTEXT OF A SMALL WORKING GROUP UNDER MILITARY COMMITTEE AUSPICES. PANSA SUGGESTED THAT THE LONG TERM PROBLEMS OF DEFENSE PLANS FOR TURKEY MIGHT BE CONSIDERED LATER BUT IN THE MEANTIME THE DPC SHOULD TRANSMIT ERALP'S STATEMENT TO CAPITALS AND MEET AGAIN FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. DE STAERCKE ASKED FOR FURTHER DPC DISCUSSION TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING BEGINNING MAY 22, AND SUGGESTED MAY 16. PANSA THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE USEFUL PROVIDED ALL CAPITALS HAD PROVIDED VIEWS BY THAT TIME. FINALLY PANSA ANNOUNCED THAT TWO REPORTERS HAD LEARNED OF THIS DPC MEETING YESTERDAY (APRIL 24) AFTERNOON AND RECOMMENDED PERMREPS EXERCISE EXTREME DISCRETION IN ANY DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THIS MEETING.

9. COMMENT: LOW-KEY FACTUAL TURKISH STATEMENT WAS IN CONTRAST

TO MORE EMOTIONAL EXPOSITION THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED AND LEADS US TO CONCLUDE THAT TURKISH INTENT IS TO SEEK TO RECTIFY MILITARY DEFICIENCIES IN CONTEXT OF EFFORT PRESSING FOR EARLY DEFINITION OF GREECE-NATO RELATIONSHIP CONSISTENT WITH OBJECTIVE SHARED BY ALL ALLIES, INCLUDING TURKEY, OF COAXING GREECE BACK INTO MAXIMUM MILITARY INTEGRATION. IN THIS CONNECTION, DE STAERCKE DEFTLY LED WAY FOR DPC TO MESH TURKISH CONCERNS WITH BROADER GREECE-NATO NEGOTIATIONS IN DUE COURSE. WE DO NOT EXPECT GREEK MEMBERSHIP IN MC TO INHIBIT DEVELOPMENT OF SUBSTANTIVE MILITARY COMMENTS ON TURKISH CONCERNS, AND PLAN TO MINIMIZE POSSIBILITY OF GREEK OBSTRUCTIONISM BY SEEKING TO KEEP MILITARY EFFORT IN IS/IMS CHANNELS, DRAWING SHAPE INTO EXERCISE THROUGH SHAPE/IMS COORDINATION OR THROUGH MC CHAIRMAN, AS APPROPRIATE.

10. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS ON TURKISH STATEMENT.
BRUCE

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From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
USDOCOSOUTH

ANKARA
ATHENS
NICOSIA
ROME

Type: TE

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